

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 2 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) An electrode material for a lithium secondary battery, the electrode material comprising alloy particles, the alloy particles comprising:
a silicon phase as a major component; and
an intermetallic compound ~~containing tin, the intermetallic compound being~~
dispersed in the silicon phase,

wherein the intermetallic compound contains tin and at least one element selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel, cobalt, iron, manganese, vanadium, molybdenum, niobium, tantalum, titanium, zircon, yttrium, lanthanum, selenium, magnesium and silver,

wherein the alloy particles have an average particle diameter of 0.02 μm to 5 μm , and

wherein the crystallite size of the silicon phase is not less than 2 nm but no more than 500 nm, as determined by the Scherrer Equation $L_c = 0.94\lambda/(\beta\cos\theta)$, where L_c is the crystallite size, λ is the wavelength of the X-ray beam, β is the full width at half maximum of peak and θ is the Bragg angle of diffracted rays.

2. (Currently Amended) The electrode material for a lithium secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein the intermetallic compound further contains at least one element selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel, cobalt, iron, manganese, vanadium, molybdenum, niobium, tantalum, zircon, yttrium, lanthanum, selenium and magnesium.

3. (Previously Presented) The electrode material for a lithium secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein the alloy particles further comprise at least one metal element present in an elemental metal state selected from the group consisting of tin, aluminum, zinc, indium, antimony, bismuth and lead.

4. (Previously Presented) The electrode material for a lithium secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein the content of silicon in the alloy particles is not less than 50% by weight but no more than 90% by weight.

5. (Original) An electrode structure comprising the electrode material set forth in claim 1, a conductive auxiliary material, a binder and a current collector.

6. (Original) The electrode structure according to claim 5, wherein the conductive auxiliary material is a carbonaceous material.

7. (Original) A secondary battery, which comprises a negative electrode using the electrode structure set forth in claim 5, an electrolyte and a positive electrode, and which utilizes an oxidation reaction of lithium and a reduction reaction of lithium ions.

8 to 13. (Cancelled)